



Accused Polluter Was Paid to Clean Up Sites

By RALPH BLUMENTHAL

A state investigating committee was told yesterday that a New Jersey company accused of illegally dumping millions of gallons of toxic wastes in the New York area was awarded nearly \$3.5 million in public contracts to clean up two sites that it had originally polluted.

One of the cleanups by the company — known most recently as Quanta Resources Corporation of Edgewater, N.J. — was accomplished, witnesses said, by dumping the contaminated wastes at yet other improper sites, including New York City garbage landfills.

John Cassilano, a former New York City Sanitation Department supervisor who was dismissed in February in connection with the landfill dumping, invoked his Fifth Amendment privilege against self-incrimination and refused to answer the panel's questions.

Yesterday's hearing in Manhattan by the State Senate Select Committee on Crime added new accounts to what has become a spreading series of Federal and state investigations into illegal dumping and resale of toxic waste products in the metropolitan area.

A number of the inquiries are focusing on the now-dormant Quanta con-

cern, which previously operated under various names, including Newtown Oil Refining, the Hudson Oil Corporation, Edgewater Terminal, Northeast Oil Service and the Diamond Head Refining Company. Behind them all, according to the crime committee, headed by State Senator Ralph J. Marino of Oyster Bay, L.I., was the same owner — Russell W. Mahler.

Several weeks ago Mr. Mahler began serving a one-year sentence in Pennsylvania on a conviction for draining millions of gallons of dangerous pollutants into the Susquehanna River. A former Quanta plant manager, Kenneth Mans-

field, is awaiting sentencing after pleading guilty to Federal charges of toxic dumping in New York City landfills.

Mr. Mansfield, testifying before the crime committee yesterday, said that Quanta, then operating as Newtown, had got a \$1.1 million contract from New York City around 1977 to clean up a chemical-contaminated lagoon off College Point, Queens. Earlier, the company itself had dumped into the same lagoon waste oil contaminated with highly toxic polychlorinated-biphenyls, or PCB's, he said.

The contract fell through more than a year later when Canada refused to accept the waste shipments.

Mr. Mansfield also testified that about the same time Newtown had re-

ceived a \$2.25 million contract from the State of New Jersey to remove a lake of up to 13 million gallons of oil contaminated with PCB's from the property of Mr. Mahler's Diamond Head company off the New Jersey Turnpike and Route 280.

Some of those poisoned wastes were then sprinkled over garbage at city landfills in Brooklyn, Staten Island and the Bronx, Mr. Mansfield said. Other portions, he said, were drained into the municipal sewer in Queens.

Another witness, William A. Carracino, former head of the fire-ravaged Chemical Control Corporation of Elizabeth, N.J., said some of the oil lake had been disposed of by piping it across the road.

Mr. Carracino, a Federal informant

on illegal waste-dumping who recently spent nine months in jail on dumping convictions, also told the committee that he had offered a lower bid on the Diamond Head cleanup. But he said the bid had been rejected after he had refused a contractor's demand to kick back a portion of the award.

In other testimony, Samuel J. Kearing Jr., former regional counsel for the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, said he was removed from his job for insisting that New York City bring its leaking landfills into compliance with state law, even at a cost of up to \$100 million.

His superior, Terry Agriss, regional director of the state agency, testified that a consent agreement with the city was more likely to achieve results.

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File Diamond Head Oil; also Quanta

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